

Ryde Youth Theatre Secures 4-Year Funding From Council

Published on 25 May 2017

A four-year funding program for the Ryde Youth Theatre will provide stability and additional resources to plan ambitious artistic programs and expand social engagement opportunities for young people.

The City of Ryde Council unanimously endorsed a \$75,000 per annum allocation for years 2017/18 to 2020/21 for the highly successful youth group that had only been funded by Council on an ad hoc basis since inception in 2009.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said the Council decision was a great outcome. "The four-year funding program is a key component of the Council's efforts to foster a vibrant and sustainable local arts sector and to provide an outlet for young people with an interest in theatre and performance.

"This investment in our youth will allow this dedicated group to create and present excellent and innovative artistic works that engage audiences and provide a unique social involvement for young people that is sometimes life changing."

RYT is the only performing arts company of its type in the Northern Sydney region. It provides opportunities for young people aged 12 – 25 to join mentors and other likeminded young people to write, workshop, produce and perform their own plays.

Artistic Director of Ryde Youth Theatre, Suzanne Hauser, said: "We are so fortunate to have a Council who understands the importance of the arts to young people and who has shown strong support for the theatre. I'm privileged to work with such passionate, committed and talented young people and to bring their stories, visions and imaginings to life.

"Over the next four years we will see many opportunities for young artists to develop and perform their own work, more compelling, original and authentic productions, and even more young people find a place to belong and be celebrated in their community."

Since 2009 RYT has worked with over 350 young people and produced 24 original works, with four more planned for 2017. Its yearly program includes both short and full length plays, all written by and with young people, for young people. Around 70% of their core audience are aged between 12 and 18.

What the Four-Year funding program means to members of RYT

Emily Hespe "As a performer I have found very few accessible, professional environments to explore all aspects of theatre. The new funding for Ryde Youth Theatre guarantees a place for others like me to have the opportunity of performing

purely theatre with others just like me. The funding has brought an ideology of a bright future for current and hopefully new members in our amazing community.”

Cooper Ware “Ryde Youth Theatre provides a welcoming and comfortable environment to socialise and work in. This really helps young adults and teenagers to express their imagination and emotions in the form of writing, directing and acting. Without programs like this, many youths that aren’t as interested in sports or other social activities wouldn’t have a place where they can just be themselves and feel comfortable in their surroundings.”

Raman Mondraty “With this additional funding, the creative ideas we are developing, have a secure place in our future. Many of the more long-term members have begun moving into developing our own full length plays helping them build up a portfolio of extremely well realised works. Most of us wish to pursue this as a career and beyond this there are few options that allow budding young playwrights to have their work produced to a professional standard”

Liam Regent “I believe that the Ryde Youth Theatre members are very creative young people that like to think of ideas both for characters and stories and visual representations of what we can do. With this funding I believe that we can more than exceed our limitless imaginations.”

New Site For Origami Horse Sculptures

Published on 23 May 2017

A new site for the origami horse sculptures, currently located in West Ryde Plaza, has been confirmed. The sculptures will be re-homed at Riding for the Disabled's Marsfield headquarters.

The Marsfield site was considered the preferred location for the three horse sculptures after Council carried out consultations with stakeholders that included members of the community, the artist who created the sculptures and Riding for the Disabled management.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: "Our principal concern has always been the comfort and amenity of the public and this outcome appears to be positive for all concerned.

"The Culloden Road site ensures that the sculptures are visible to the public and attractively displayed. The sculptures also echo the location's unique relationship between horses and humans."

The sculptures will be removed in June and works to reinstate them in their new home will commence almost immediately. It is anticipated the relocation works will be completed in mid-July.

The artwork relocation clears the way for Council to progress its plans for the embellishment of West Ryde Plaza to create a vibrant multi-purpose space with seating and more shade to provide greater amenity and enjoyment for daily users, as well as the capacity for community events and gatherings.

Initial consultations with local business, residents and shoppers have attracted wide ranging feedback and it is anticipated that the detailed design for the Plaza, responding to this feedback, will be available to the community for review and further comment in September.

Turn Trash into Treasure - Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize

Published on 22 May 2017

The City of Ryde's biggest art prize, the Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP), is on again and local artists, designers and innovators in the community are invited to create artworks and design objects made from used or recycled material that relate to sustainable living or waste themes.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering said: "Last year's standard really set the bar high with close to 200 entries and 80 pieces selected for exhibition. We are excited to see what amazing talent and inspirational ideas will be unearthed for SWAP 2017."

Now in its seventh year SWAP is an invitation to turn 'trash into treasure' with a prize pool of \$4,550 on offer and five categories to choose from.

Council's Senior Environment Coordinator Kylie McMahan said the aim of the art prize was education through creativity. "People come up with the most amazing concepts but there is also a serious message behind the art prize and that is to bring attention to the amount of trash we throw away.

"We want to address community education around consumption, and get people to think about how they consume, recycle and reuse," she said.

In the lead up to the exhibition four workshops will be held focusing on a range of methods to turn plastic, rope, rags, paper and other materials into beautiful artworks. A focus will also be on functionality so skills will be taught to create useful items out of recyclable materials such as fruit bowls, baskets and planter pots, amongst others.

This year's SWAP has an incredible line up of judges including Wendy Sharpe (Archibald Prize winner), Steven Alderton (Director of the National Arts School) and Jeff Angel (Director of The Environment Centre and Boomerang Alliance) which gives some idea of just how important SWAP has become in the art world.

2017 SWAP at a glance

- 5 categories - conditions apply
- \$4,550 in prize money
- 4 x Workshops during school holidays
- Celebrity judges
- Entries close Friday 4 August
- Exhibition 7 – 20 September at See Street Gallery

Categories and Prizes

- SWAP | Open Category (18 years+) Winner \$1,800 / Second Prize \$600

- YEP – Youth Environment Prize | Youth Category (16 – 25 years) Winner \$750 / Second Prize \$250
- Junior YEP | Younger Category (11 - 15 years) Winner \$300 / Second Prize \$100
- Functionality Award | Winner \$500 | Design object which best uses reclaimed material to form a functional piece – open to all categories
- People’s Choice Award | Winner \$250

July School Holiday Workshops

Council is holding a number of free creative workshops in the lead up to SWAP in July. Open to all members of the community.

- July 5 - Plastic Alive
- July 8 – Rope Work
- July 12 – Plastic is the Bomb
- July 15 – Rags to Art

Celebrity Judges

- Steven Alderton | Director and Chief Executive of the National Arts School
- Jeff Angel | Director of the Total Environment Centre and the Boomerang Alliance
- Wendy Sharpe | Archibald Prize (1996) and Sulman Prize (1986) Winner

Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize accepts entries from those who live and work in the Ryde area. Entries must include a sustainable living theme.

For applications, conditions of entry, workshop details and a full program visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/swap

If you have enquiries regarding the exhibition and application process contact Ben Eadie on 0422 871 327 or ben@octobersun.com.au

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Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM Honoured For Long Service

Published on 22 May 2017

The hard work and commitment of Councillor Sarkis Yedelian, OAM was recognised this week when he was presented with a Local Government NSW long-service award by the City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering.

The Local Government NSW Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Clr Yedelian for 13-years of service at the full meeting of Council held on Tuesday 23 May 2017.

“Local councillors are often unsung community heroes, dedicating an enormous amount of time and effort on behalf of their local communities,” the Mayor said.

“All this often happens over and above fulltime jobs and family responsibilities.

“One of the most satisfying things I get to do is to acknowledge and thank those individuals who demonstrate this commitment to the community for years – or in Clr Yedelian’s case, for well over a decade.”

Biography

Clr Sarkis Yedelian is committed to working with the community to create a clean, green and safe city. First elected to Council in March 2004, he is self-employed and has run his IT and communications consulting business since 1985.

Clr Yedelian was elected Deputy Mayor from September 2007 – August 2009.

He actively encourages the integration and interaction of Australians with immigrants and helped the community form the Ryde Multicultural Centre. In 2013/14 he played a key leadership role in Ryde’s Community Harmony Reference Group, which advises Council on all multicultural issues and is currently the Chair of that group. He is also Chair of the Planning & Environment Committee and a member of the Finance & Governance Committee, Works & Community Committee and the Ryde Civic Hub Committee.

Mayor Congratulates Community Grants Recipients

Published on 19 May 2017

Mayor of the City of Ryde, Cllr Bill Pickering, has congratulated the successful applicants of the 2017 City of Ryde Community Grants Program.

Grants totalling \$111,660 have been awarded to forty-two locally based, community groups and organisations for a range of projects and initiatives.

Mayor Pickering said the annual grants program is one of the ways Council supports the work of local community groups and organisations. "The City of Ryde is home to an extremely diverse and innovative community and the work of these groups and organisations plays an important role in shaping our community.

"The special projects, programs and events range in scope and variety and all contribute to community well-being which helps build and support our vibrant community culture."

2017 Community Grants

Community Projects | up to \$5,000

The Shepherd Centre for Deaf Children

Art4connection

The Northern Centre (new Ryde Family Services)

St Andrews Socio Religious Justice, Harmony of FITA Inc.

Buddhist Compassion and Relief Tzu Chi Foundation

Sydney Korean Women's Association

Northside Community Forum Limited

Armenian Relief Society Araz Chapter

Multicultural Integration Community Support

Taldumende Youth Services

Feng Huang Yuan Spiritual Cultivation Centre

Seniors | up to \$2,000

Italian Leisure Group

Catholic Healthcare Limited

Italo-Australian Senior Citizens Group

Italian Womens Group Marsfield

Ryde Multicultural Centre Inc

Probus Club of Ryde

Indonesian Welfare Association Inc

Sport & Recreation | up to \$3,500

Eastwood Ryde Netball Association

Gladesville Sharks Football Club

Putney Rangers Sports Club

Macquarie Combined Sports Club
Eastwood St Andrews Association Football Club
Ryde Sports Foundation

Capacity Building

Small Emerging Group | up to \$3,500

Australia Han In Saenng Myung Line - Korean Life Line
Different Abled People Association Inc - Friends of DAPA
The Northern Centre – Together We Can

Capacity Building

General | up to \$3,500

Ryde Hunters Hill Community Transport Association
Australian Korean Art therapy Association
SydneySider Express
Friends of Lane Cove National Park
Artisans Ryde
North Ryde Community Aid & Information Centre
The Ryde Chinese Carers Support Group

Capacity Building

Events | up to \$3,500

Reach Community Initiatives
Sydney Latin Film Festival
Rotary Club of North Ryde
Rotary Club of Macquarie Park
Macquarie Chapel Presbyterian Church
Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens
Australian Asian Association of Bennelong and Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club

For information on The City of Ryde grant program go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/grants

Compliance blitz day targets offending building sites

Published on 19 May 2017



On Wednesday 24 May the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Planning and Environment and local councils will be out in force to conduct a soil and erosion control compliance blitz at construction sites around the Parramatta River.

The blitz day is part of the month-long *Get the Site Right* campaign being conducted to inspect developments of all sizes, ranging from small home renovations to large apartment estates and major road construction.

Developers who have received warnings from initial inspections and have not made their sites compliant will be issued penalties. Developers are required by law to contain and manage sediment on their work site. Non-compliance can lead to fines from \$8000 to \$15,000 per incident.

The *Get the Site Right* initiative is part of the Parramatta River Catchment Group's mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025, and highlights the role that developers and builders play in cleaning up the river.

It also reflects the strong community support to improve the water quality of the river. A recent survey of more than 1100 people living around the Parramatta River and its creeks found that almost seven out of 10 residents who swim are interested in swimming in a designated area of the Parramatta River.

In the first blitz last October, over 50 per cent of those sites inspected were found to be non-compliant. Six months on, the hope is that this rate will decrease as building sites get on board and manage environmental controls adequately.

The blitz is being conducted across the local government areas of Blacktown, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Hills Shire, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Parramatta, Ryde and Strathfield.

Community members are encouraged to report pollution incidents by calling the Environment Line number 131 555. Guidelines on sediment and erosion control are at: www.ourlivingriver.com.au.

Media opportunities

On **Wednesday, 24 May**, the 11 participating councils, NSW EPA and Department of Planning and Environment will be patrolling building sites across the Parramatta River catchment area.

Interviews, photos and other media opportunities can be arranged upon request.

Campaign statistics on the one-day blitz will be made available on **Monday 29 May** and the whole month's statistics will be made available on **Monday 5 June**. Statistics will include number of sites inspected, number of notices issued, dollar amounts fined, types of offences and names of developers issued with penalties.

Quotes

NSW EPA Regional Director Metropolitan Branch, Ms Giselle Howard, said that initiatives such as the *Get the Site* right campaign highlight the need for developers to understand the vital role they play in helping to improve water quality and the long-term sustainability of the Parramatta River.

"Many developers still haven't made the connection between non-compliance and preventing the community from being able to swim in the river," Ms Howard said.

"Run-off from their building sites can pollute the river with dirt, soil, sand and mud, which can in turn smother native plants and animals that live in these waterways. Eroded river and creek banks also destroy habitats, and stormwater drains blocked by sediment can lead to flooding and overflows."

"We don't want to find high rates of non-compliance – we're hoping that this year's joint taskforce will show a significant increase in the number of sites that are doing the right things when it comes to site management. That said, we will take strong regulatory action where it is required."

"We look forward to working with local councils on the blitz day to raise awareness with developers and the community about the effects of sediment run-off."

PRCG Chair, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the compliance blitz is just one of several important initiatives aimed at achieving the mission to swim in the Parramatta River by 2025.

“We know that people want to swim in the River, but if things stay the same, we won't be able to achieve that. Our community wants a cleaner river and developers will need to play a part to help us accomplish our mission.”

“In our recent community survey, more than half (54%) of residents said they would prefer to swim in the river if it took them half as long to get to as the beach, and one in 10 swimmers have swum in the Parramatta River in the past 12 months,” Clr Laxale said.

“Our community is looking for more local, natural places to swim. It is only through working together in partnership with the community and all levels of government that we can bring about meaningful change and give the community what they want.”

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Something For Everyone At Your Local Library

Published on 15 May 2017



Library Information Week May 22 - 28

During Library Information Week (May 22-28) residents can find out why public libraries are an essential part of community life.

City of Ryde Libraries Manager, Jill Webb, said: "Libraries are places of learning and leisure where people in our community can acquire knowledge, be entertained, access technology, connect with others and where children develop key literacy and life skills."

Library Information Week Events

Monday 22 May | Ryde Library | 10.00 - 11.30am

Biggest Musical Morning Tea

Join us for a fantastic Biggest Musical Morning Tea event and help raise money for the Cancer Council of Australia. There will be special performances by the Ryde Public School Choir and West Ryde Public School Orchestra ... and of course, a deliciously *b-i-g* morning tea, including celebration cake, to enjoy. Gold coin donation. 9952 8352.

Tuesday 23 May | Ryde Library | 1.00 - 3.00pm

InFocus: Tracing your family tree

Come along to this beginner's class and learn tips and tricks to make your family history journey more enjoyable.

Wednesday 24 May | Top Ryde City Shopping Piazza | 10:30am

Outdoor Storytime *The Cow Tripped Over the Moon*

Children across the country will sit down together and read the same book at the same time!

An exciting reading of the popular picture book “The Cow Tripped Over the Moon” for all ages.

Thursday 25 May | Ryde Library | 6.30 – 8.00pm

Author Talk Historian Tom Griffiths in Conversation

Join eminent historian and award winning author Tom Griffiths for a fascinating conversation about his new landmark book *The Art of Time Travel*. Light refreshments provided. Gold coin donation.

Bookings www.cityofryde.eventbrite.com.au

Every day of the week

STEAM | West Ryde Library

STEAM (Science | Technology | Engineering | Art | Mathematics) is an interactive learning program for children 3 – 12 years using visual and hands-on activities to engage them in fun ways with technology and discovery.

Every week of the year, your Ryde Library Network offers the following services:

- 200,000 item collection, including 18,000 eBooks, 13,000 DVDs and 49,000 items in the kids collection
- Community language collection – 12 different languages including Chinese, Korean and Tamil
- 1,700 programs and activities run each year, including sessions for children (storytime and toy library), seniors, special interest groups, author talks
- Local studies and genealogy
- Special events - Author Platforms, Musical Morning Teas, and InFocus seminars
- Free access to computers with internet, Microsoft Office, scanning and printing facilities
- Free **March to a Million** reusable coffee cup (while stocks last)
- Free Membership - 72,000 members
- Free WiFi
- 24/7 free eLibrary
- Home Library Service
- Inter library loans

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Ryde Libraries Get \$100K Boost For e-Books

Published on 12 May 2017

Ryde Library Service is keeping up with the demand for eBooks with a \$100,000 funding boost. The extra funds will see the RLS eBook collection grow to 18,000 titles.

Ryde Library Service's records reflect the growing popularity of eBooks with annual loans up 28%.

City of Ryde Library Manager, Jill Webb, said: "The reading experience on e-reading devices is equal to the experience with a traditional book and digital offers the advantage to download books as and where you are. For library members the added benefit is that downloads are free.

"Fiction readers, in particular, have responded enthusiastically to the e-reading experience with romance, thrillers and mysteries in the top three genres, along with travel and biographies. And in an unexpected twist, women and older readers are powering the move to e-books."

Ryde's Top 5 eBook loans:

Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty

Lion by Saroo Brierley

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts One and Two by J. K. Rowling

Truly Madly Guilty by Liane Moriarty

The expanded e-collection includes eBooks, eAudios and eKids and will be launched during Library Information Week (May 22-28).

What's great about the eBook revolution?

- eBook downloads are free for Library Members and for a limited time only you will receive a free *March to a Million** enviro-mug on joining.
- Want some free training? A two-hour Digital Discoveries workshop will be held at West Ryde Library on Thursday 25 May 10.00 – 11.30am. To book www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library or phone 9952 8352.
- Borrowing an eBook or e-Audio could not be easier:
 - Go to the website www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library
 - Look for the "Online Library" section of the page
 - Click "eBooks and eAudiobooks"
 - Select *Overdrive* or *Bolinda Digital* as the browsing service you would like to use
 - Find a book that you're interested in and click Borrow.

**March to a Million* is Ryde Libraries' quest to reach a million visitors in a year.

Volunteer Recognition Award Winners

Published on 12 May 2017



In an evening of celebration at a Ryde Civic Hall gala reception, sixteen individuals and four groups were honoured at the annual City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards last night.

The Mayor Clr Bill Pickering said the endeavours of volunteers make our community better and stronger. “It is not an understatement to say that this army of volunteers are our unsung heroes.

“They give their time and energy so generously to those in need, ensuring that services are delivered and that help is not far away. “Volunteers improve the lives of countless of our fellow citizens, and strengthen the social well-being of our entire community. It is an honour to be in their company.”

The Mayor also paid tribute to those who nominated the volunteers for the various Awards, as without their action the work of individuals and groups could go unrecognised.

Winners of the City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards

Volunteer of the Year – DOMINIC FONTI

For twenty five years, Dominic Fonti has volunteered at Ryde Saints United Football Club, starting with the Club in 1993 while his kids played. His varied duties have included treasure, president, canteen operator and team manager. He is described as

passionate, selfless, reliable and committed whether he is out in front leading or working in the background doing the unglamorous jobs. Many consider Dom “the backbone of the Club” and their most valued member ever. Dom also volunteers with other local organisations, including Meals on Wheels and Catholic Care assisting people in desperate situations.

Dom considers volunteering to be beneficial for everyone. He believes that everyone can make a difference and everybody counts. He is respected and loved by many.

Young Volunteer of the Year – EDEN LEE

For the past three years teenager Eden Lee has balanced her demanding commitment to HSC school studies and the challenge of obtaining a Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award with volunteering up to 10 hours a week at the Eastwood Chinese Seniors Club. Eden has used her time and IT skills to update the Club’s more than 1,300 membership register and has taken on the extra duty of designing their monthly newsletter. Through her volunteering commitment she has gained valuable work experience and helped save the club the cost of outsourcing computer work. What started out as a short-term volunteering involvement for Eden has turned into a much longer and more rewarding experience for her and the many new ‘Gradpas’ and ‘Grandmas’ she has suddenly gained.

Volunteer Group of the Year – EASTWOOD LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

The Eastwood Lunar New Year Celebration Committee was established in 2008 by local community groups. Their work has seen the Lunar New Year Festival grow to be Eastwood’s second biggest event (after Granny Smith Festival) attracting a crowd of over 20,000 on the grand celebration day. The month-long celebration includes lead-up events involving local businesses, a community cooking competition, inter-school table tennis competition and the Grand Celebration with 50 fete stalls, cultural performances, Dragon and Lion dances and fire crackers. Its success is thanks to the dedication of the Committee which is made up of volunteers from various backgrounds. Their common goal is to make the celebration an inclusive event that celebrates their heritage by bringing everyone in the community together.

Special Commendations

YOHANS BASTIAN Yohans joined North Ryde Community Aid in 2015 and assists with their ‘Old n Bold’ mens-only social group. He collects the men for lunch, helps serve and clear the meals and facilitates conversation among the men, many of whom are frail, physically isolated and suffer from various illnesses. Yohans arranges his work schedule to assist NRCA mid-week so his clients receive the care and attention they need and appreciate so much. His peers say that Yohans is a quiet and reserved young man and his contribution is very highly valued. At last year’s Grandparents’ Sunday he took on the barbeque duties for three hours straight. It is no wonder his parents are so proud of him.

MELISSA KONG Melissa is one of the most recognisable faces and voices in Eastwood thanks to her tireless volunteer work at many community events. For the past 9 years, she has served as the lead master of ceremony at the Eastwood Lunar

New Year celebrations, including during the main celebration day and cooking competition. Melissa also drives fund raising efforts, does minute taking, promotional material designs and sponsor liaison. Melissa has donated more than 500 hours to volunteering thanks to her involvement with many other groups such as Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club, Australian Asian Association of Bennelong and Grandparents Day. Her fluency in English, Cantonese and Mandarin has contributed to the success of many events making them truly inclusive to all.

MAY PETERS May has been involved with Eastwood-Epping Branch of the CWA, The Lantern Club and Pink Lady at Ryde Hospital collectively for over 16 years. At the CWA Rest Centre in Eastwood, May contributes to the success of fund raising activities, heads the raffle committee, coordinates the Open Day and uses her quiet charm and lovely Irish accent to ensure people are ready to lend a hand. May is famous for her jams and condiments and her cooking prowess has not only won prizes but helped raise much needed funds a great deal of which has gone to help women and children in rural NSW with extra school expenses and children who attend the School for the Blind and Deaf at North Rocks.

KEVIN SHAW Kevin has been an active member of the Ryde Historical Society since joining in 1987. He has held many executive positions within the society, including president, treasurer, public officer, website manager and member of the Ryde Heritage Advisory Committee. He regularly conducts tours of Willandra, Field of Mars Cemetery, and the historic Villages of Ryde, to name just a few. One of most valuable benefits to the community has been Kevin's meticulous research and documentation of the history of the Ryde district and the generous sharing of his time. His published histories, regular articles for The Ryde Recorder, along with the information loaded on the website will ensure Ryde's history is available to everyone into the future.

EPA and councils Get the Site Right at Parramatta River compliance blitz

Published on 12 May 2017



On Tuesday 18 October, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and eight local councils joined forces for a joint compliance blitz on soil erosion and sediment control at construction sites around the Parramatta River.

The blitz was part of the Parramatta River Catchment Group's 'Get the Site Right' initiative, which highlights the role that developers and builders play an important role in keeping the river clean and helping to make it swimmable again by 2025.

A total of 156 sites were inspected across the Parramatta River catchment, including areas within The Hills Shire, Blacktown, Parramatta, Cumberland, Ryde, Hunters Hill, Canada Bay and Burwood Council areas.

Nearly half (47%) of sites inspected were not being managed adequately. Offences ranged from no controls in place at all and unprotected dirt stockpiles in locations where they could be washed away, to minor offences such as ruptured sediment bags and inadequate sweeping of roads and driveways.

Developments of all sizes were targeted, with inspection sites ranging from small home renovations to major road developments.

Actions taken on the day depended on the severity of the offence and included prevention notices and fines to repeat offenders, verbal directions and formal warnings.

Offenders can be hit with fines of \$8,000 to \$15,000 per site for each incident and one developer in Parramatta received \$14,000 in fines for poor management of two sites, which resulted in the pollution of waters.

The blitz will continue throughout October with follow up inspections scheduled for sites already visited. Fines will be issued for sites that continue to be non-compliant.

The blitz has been timed in anticipation of a wet November, to ensure sediment is managed properly and does not flow off sites into stormwater pipes or creeks leading to the Parramatta River.

You can report pollution incidents by calling the Environment Line number 131 555. Further information at www.ourlivingriver.com.au.

Quotes:

NSW EPA Director of Metropolitan Branch Ms Giselle Howard said that erosion and sediment from construction sites poses a major threat to the river and environment, if not properly managed.

“We support development but we want it done right. With the rapid construction and development taking place around Parramatta River, sediment can run off building sites into stormwater drains and straight into the river,” Ms Howard said.

“Sediment laden runoff can pollute the river with dirt, soil, sand and mud, which can in turn smother native plants and animals that live in these waterways. Eroded river and creek banks also destroy habitats, and stormwater drains blocked by sediment can lead to flooding and overflows.

“Developers are required by law to incorporate erosion and sediment prevention measures in their environment protection licences and to adhere to these requirements throughout the construction process. Non-compliance can lead to fines of up to \$15,000 for each incident.

“The NSW EPA is excited to be a part of the ‘Get the Site Right’ compliance taskforce; working with local councils to raise awareness with developers and the community about the effects of sediment laden runoff, and also taking regulatory action as required.”

PRCG Chair Clr Jerome Laxale said the compliance campaign reflects the changing landscape of the Parramatta River.

“As residential development replaces the old industrial sites along the river, there is increasing demand for a quality river where people can safely swim,” Clr Laxale said.

“‘Get the Site Right’ is a great example of how the member authorities of the PRCG are working together to protect the treasure that is the Parramatta River. We will be out in force in October patrolling sites and targeting offenders.

“The community also has a key role to play, by letting the EPA or local Council know if they see a site that doesn’t look right.”

Mayor, Helen McCaffrey, City of Canada Bay said that “Sediment run-off is a serious issue for our environment as it leads into the Parramatta River, having a detrimental effect to harm or kill aquatic plants and animals.”

“We recently investigated an incident where we were notified of sediment pollution travelling from a stormwater drain off Henley Marine Drive into the Parramatta River” she said.

“One of our Environmental Health Officers traced the run off back to the offending site, leading to a \$6,000 fine being issued to the offenders.”

- ENDS-

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Photos, interviews and other media opportunities can be arranged. Please contact Sarah Clift for further details.

Get the Site Right is a joint taskforce between the Parramatta River Catchment Group, its member councils and the NSW Environment Protection Authority. We are working together to target developers and enforce best practice on building sites, to protect the Parramatta River and surrounding environments and continue on the positive path to making the river swimmable again.

City of Ryde Says 'Thanks' to Local Volunteers

Published on 09 May 2017

City of Ryde Council has joined organisations around the nation to celebrate National Volunteer Week with a gala event on Thursday 11 May, to say 'thanks' to the thousands of local volunteers who help put a smile on people's faces.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: "The City of Ryde recognises the valuable contribution of the estimated 15,000 people who volunteer in our City. Without them we would not be able to assist the community through the provision of services such as community transport, youth initiatives, community festivals, lifestyle programs, aged support and meals on wheels.

"Our Volunteer Recognition Awards give us the chance to say 'thank you' and to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our volunteers."

Twenty individuals and groups have been nominated for the 2017 City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards in the following categories:

Individual Award

Presented to an individual who has made an exemplary voluntary contribution and who through their volunteering has made a significant impact in their community.

Nominees: Yohans Bastian, Kit Chan, Dominic Fonti, Jaysooriah, Maxwell Kingston, Melissa Kong, Rita Lepedjian, Bonnie Lui, Janet Makardi-Masihi, Sandra Munro, May Peters, Kevin Shaw, Norman Wong

Youth Award

Presented to an individual aged 16 – 25 years who has made an outstanding voluntary commitment and who through their volunteering has positively impacted on the lives of others.

Nominees: Eden Lee, Natasha Skvorc, Carmen Yih.

Group Award

Presented to a group of volunteers who have provided innovative leadership through best practice.

Nominees: Chinese Community Learning Centre, Eastwood Lunar New Year Celebration Committee, Royal Rehab Lifestyle Choir Volunteers, The Habitat Network.

The City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards will be held on Thursday 11 May 2017, 6.30pm Ryde Civic Hall.

For more Information about local volunteering, please visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/volunteering or go to Volunteering Australia's website www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Junior Namibian Rugby Team Visits Ryde Aquatic & Leisure Centre

Published on 05 May 2017



An U12s and U13s Rugby team from Namibia will visit the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre on Friday 5 May at 12 noon as part of a two-week tour.

The Namibia Sport 4 Jesus group of 42 players will play a variety of local rugby teams and are taking time out to visit the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre where they will use the indoor sports facilities and pools, and try their skills on the Surf Ryder.

Clr Roy Maggio, Chairman of the Sport and Recreation Committee said he is delighted to welcome the team to Ryde. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these boys to represent their country and to grow from the experience.

"I believe this team is a very well-drilled and disciplined side, so chances are they will give our teams a run for their money!"

Council Meeting 26 April 2017 - Reconvened on 9 May 2017

Published on 03 May 2017

Please note that the Council Meeting of 26 April 2017 will be Reconvened on Tuesday, 9 May 2017 at the conclusion of the Ryde Civic Hub Committee Meeting.

All remaining items at this meeting are confidential and therefore not open to the public.

Habitat Garden Takes Root With Natives

Published on 02 May 2017



A pocket green patch known as Donnelly Park, identified as ideal for a native habitat garden by a group of Putney residents, has now sprung to life thanks to a bit of hard yakka and Council know-how.

Local resident Penny Willis put her idea of a native garden to her local Councillor, Jane Stott, the chair of the Bushland and Environment Advisory Committee who agreed that the park would benefit from the enhancement. Council staff were asked for assistance and Mrs Willis organised a letterbox drop for volunteers to lend a helping hand.

To get the ball rolling, Council improved access to the reserve and delivered 5m³ of mulch to the site. On the designated day, Bushcare staff armed with shovels, mattocks and eight fledgling flowering gums (*Corymbia ficifolia*) met up with the eager gardeners.

Despite the rain, after an hour the 24m² area had been dug, mulched and planted, transforming an underutilised area into a budding native garden.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said: "The reality is that Council cannot do everything with the funds we have, so working with community groups makes a lot of sense.

"This garden is a great initiative and shows the benefit of Council working 'hand in glove' with the community to improve the environment. It's a win-win for everyone."

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jane Stott, said she was delighted with the outcome. "Community plantings bring people together, add beauty and help the environment.

"Gardening can also serve as an outdoor classroom, giving children the opportunity to learn about the natural world and the value of helping create something with their own hands."

It is hoped that the native habitat gardens will encourage more usage of Donnelly Park for passive recreation and inspire locals to use native plants in their own gardens.

Ryde Council hopes to recruit more volunteers for the next community planting day when the focus will be on planting out the area near the corner of Morrison Road and Mitchell Street and the garden bed area along the Mitchell Street edge.